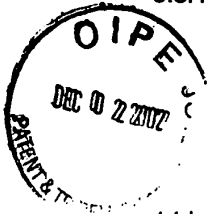


location of the odor absorbing material, but that Willinger teaches the use of a layer of odor absorbing material disposed on the interior surface of the face textile.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the limitation that the odor receiving layer is permanently disposed on the interior of the face textile in a configuration that covers at least the entire top surface of the animal bed encasing. In contrast, Willinger teaches a removable odor receiving cartridge 40 which is centrally located in a recess 46 in the floor surface portion 22, or in a pouch 50 between the cover 14 and the bedding material 12 (see Abstract, FIGS. 1, 2, and 6). Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Denesuk et al. and Willinger do not suggest or teach Applicants invention as now claimed in amended claim 1, and since claims 2-4 and 9-13 depend from amended claim 1 or from each other, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been overcome.

Claims 5-8 and 14 were rejected as being unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over the combination of Denesuk et al. and Willinger as applied to claims 1-4 and 9-13 above, and further in view of Ryan et al. (5,019,062). Since claims 5-8 depend from amended claim 1 discussed above, Applicants respectfully contend that the rejection of claims 5-8 has been overcome.

Furthermore, Applicants have amended independent claim 14 to include the limitation that the odor receiving layer is permanently disposed on the interior of the face textile in a configuration that covers at least the entire top surface of the animal bed encasing. Accordingly, in light of this amendment and the discussion of Willinger above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Denesuk et al., Willinger, and Ryan et al. do not suggest or teach Applicants invention as now claimed in amended claim 14 and further respectfully submit that this rejection also has been overcome.

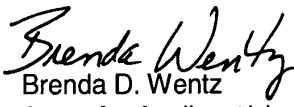


In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that claims 1-14 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully requested,

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Version with markings to show changes made:

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GROUP 3800

Claim 1 (Amended) An animal bed encasing for enclosing cushioning core, the encasing comprising an enclosure having:

a top surface and a bottom surface;

a face textile with an exterior surface and an interior surface;

an odor receiving layer permanently disposed on the interior surface of the face textile in a configuration that covers at least the entire top surface of the encasing.

Claim 14 (Amended) An animal bed encasing for enclosing cushioning core, the encasing comprising an enclosure having:

a top surface and a bottom surface;

a face textile with an exterior surface and an interior surface;

an odor receiving layer permanently disposed on the interior surface of the face textile in a configuration that covers at least the entire top surface of the encasing, said odor receiving layer including:

activated charcoal;

adhesive; and,

a backing material disposed adjacent to the odor receiving layer.